AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) An original reading apparatus comprising:

an original transport mechanism, said mechanism having a movable member that transports an original document placed on a document placement stage, and

an original reading mechanism having a light source that illuminates the transported original document, an optical sensor, and an optical system that guides light reflected from the illuminated original document to the optical sensor, and that captures an image of the transported original document, wherein

the moveable member transports a first original document by making contact with said first original document and delivers it to the reading mechanism by transmitting its movement to the first original document via frictional force in a manner such that upon detection, by the optical sensor, ~~of a multi-feeding incident where the first original document is transported along with another original document such that the two documents at least partially overlap~~ of a leading edge of another original document while the first original document is illuminated,

the original reading mechanism stops the reading operation of the first original document and deletes the read image, and the reading operation of the image of the other original document by the original reading mechanism proceeds if ~~the optical sensor detects that~~ the other original document is positioned between the first original document and a reading portion of the original reading mechanism.

6. (Currently Amended) The original reading apparatus according to claim ~~4 or~~ 5, wherein the original transport mechanism includes a structure having a plurality of document pages placed on the document placement stage face upward such that the moveable member supplies and transports the document pages page by page beginning with the bottom page, or includes a structure having a plurality of document pages placed on the document placement stage face downward such that the moveable member supplies and transports the document pages page by page beginning with the top page.

7-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The original reading apparatus according to claim ~~2, 4, or~~ 5, the apparatus further including a notifier operably connected to the reading mechanism such that when the reading operation of the first original document could not be performed due to multi-feeding, the notifier generates a notification indicating read operation failure due to multi-feeding.

10. (Previously Presented) The original reading apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the notifier makes a notification of information of the original document for which reading could not be performed due to multi-feeding.

11-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) An original reading method comprising:

transporting a first original document with an original transport mechanism,

reading an image of the transported original document with an original reading mechanism,

detecting, during said transporting, ~~a multi-feeding incident where another original document is transported during said transporting such that both documents at least partially overlap~~ a leading edge of another original document while the first original document is illuminated, where detecting includes determining relative positions of said first and other original documents by detecting with the reading mechanism whether or not a leading edge of the other document obscures at least part of the first document, and

stopping the reading operation of the first original document, deleting the read image, and altering said reading operation to read an image of the other original document if ~~determining indicates that~~ the other original document is positioned between the first original document and the reading portion of the original reading mechanism.